

SHERROD BROWN

OHIO

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FINANCE

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752

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3505

September 18, 2019

Received & Inspected

SEP 25 2019

FCC Mailroom

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

I write to express my concern about the possibility that thousands of Ohioans may soon lose telephone and internet service due to the bankruptcy of Windstream Holdings Inc. (Windstream), and to request that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) work to ensure that consumers do not lose access to vital telecommunications services.

Windstream provides landline telephone and fiber-based internet services to over 300,000 Ohioans, primarily in rural areas of the state. For many of the communities served by Windstream, the company is the only landline phone service provider. The phone service is literally the only lifeline thousands of Ohioans have in emergency situations, and it is unfathomable to think that in 2019 they may lose this service altogether. Given the vital nature of the services at issue, I want to ensure that the FCC is doing everything in its power to prevent the loss of critical access to telephone and internet services due to this bankruptcy.

I respectfully request that the FCC closely monitor this situation and work to ensure that Windstream's bankruptcy does not result in hundreds of thousands of Ohioans losing phone or internet service for any amount of time.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown